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PREFACE

The *Michigan Manual* is published biennially by the Legislative Service Bureau, under the direction of the Legislative Council, pursuant to Act 44 of 1890, as amended. As the State's official manual, it includes fundamental reference information about Michigan, its history, constitutional development, government organization, and institutions. The contents of the *Manual* are divided into the following chapters: Michigan History, Constitutions, The Legislative Branch, The Executive Branch, The Judicial Branch, Michigan's Congressional Delegation, Institutions of Higher Education, Local Government, and Elections.

The 2015-2016 edition of the *Manual* includes a wealth of updated material, including the biographies of legislators and other public officials, descriptions of the agencies of the executive branch and the courts, and a brief summary of primary and general election results.

The *Michigan Manual* is again presented in two versions: print, and an online, portable document format (pdf). The online pdf version is available from the "*Michigan Manuals*" link at the website of the Michigan Legislature <http://legislature.mi.gov>. Beginning in 2013, we also published, online, an addendum to reflect changes that occurred during the two-year legislative session after the *Manual* had gone to print. The 13 most recent editions of the *Manual* can be searched online using keywords, legislator's names, or full text capabilities. The addendum and the online search feature are available on the Michigan Legislature website. If you have comments or suggestions for improvements, please use the email address below to communicate them.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Any project of the size and scope of the *Michigan Manual* can be brought to completion only as a result of the cooperation and hard work of many people.

Staff from each of the executive departments and all of the state's public universities contributed essential information. Of particular note was the work of *Lynn Seaks* of the State Court Administrative Office coordinating the information for the Judicial Chapter.

Jacob Ignatoski and *Brandon Lever* of the Bureau's Research Services Division provided assistance in updating information presented in the Local Government, Elections, and Legislative Chapters.

The Director of the Bureau's Legislative Printing Division, *Christopher Powers*, coordinated that unit's integral work on composition, layout and web posting; *Rosemary Thomas* managed typographical and proofreading operations; *Carol Morrison* created, and *Jennifer Quinn* (Legislative Internet Technology Team) maintains, the electronic files for the web version; *Sandra Debnar* designed the Profile of Michigan section; *Sandra Debnar*, *Carol Morrison* and *Rosemary Thomas* served as typesetters, *Mary Kennedy* and *Randy Miller* as compositors, and *Rosemary Thomas* as proofreader. *Dan Reid* supervised print and bindery functions; *John Marshall* served as pressman; and *Brian Rennaker*, *John Ebright* and *Nic Violante* served as bookbinders.

John G. Strand
Legislative Council Administrator

HISTORICAL NOTE

Compiling information on government, public institutions, elections, and officials in the *Michigan Manual* is a tradition as old as Michigan itself, dating back to the Michigan Territory's organization as a state and the formation of the first constitution in 1835. First published in 1836 as a manual entitled *Legislative Manual of the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Michigan*, the *Michigan Manual* has evolved, over the last 180 years, into one of the most important sources of information on this state and its historical, political, and cultural background.

Originally developed as an information handbook for members of the Michigan Legislature, the early manuals included such legislative data as the rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, joint rules, membership lists, and orders of business. The first manual to provide information not strictly related to the conduct of legislative business was published in 1839. That book included data on banking associations and bank returns, judicial circuits, miscellaneous incorporations, the state militia, and tolls on the Central Railroad. With each subsequent edition, the amount of nonlegislative information increased, reflecting the needs of the legislature and the new state government for readily available data.

Act 263 of 1879 first specified the contents of the *Michigan Manual*. It required that legislative material and other information which had previously been published only sporadically be included in the publication. Since that time, the basic contents of the manual have remained relatively unchanged.

Commonly called the "Red Book" (which has been the color of its cover since the 1836 publication), the manual has undergone several changes in both its title and publisher. From 1836 through 1883, the title retained, in one form or another, its reference as a manual for the use of the Michigan Legislature. Act 263 of 1879, the first legislation to mandate publication of the handbook, specifically authorized the Secretary of State to prepare and publish a biennial legislative manual. Recognition in its title of the manual's value and scope as a reference work came in 1885, with the title's change to *Official Directory and Legislative Manual of the State of Michigan*. The Law, Documents and Reports Act, Act 44 of 1899, made that title (which was retained through the 1957 edition) official. Act 161 of 1958 renamed the handbook the *Michigan Manual*. Printed yearly from 1836 to 1851, the manual has been published on a biennial basis since the adoption of the Constitution of 1850. The Michigan Legislature, by authority or resolution, published the document from 1836 to 1879. Act 263 of 1879 transferred publication authority to the Secretary of State, where it remained from 1881 to 1967. The Department of Administration and its successor agency, the Department of Management and Budget, maintained responsibility for compiling and publishing the manual from 1969 to 1987.

On June 22, 1988, the legislature enacted, and the governor approved, legislation (Act 185 of 1988) that returned responsibility for producing the *Michigan Manual* to the legislature. Since that time, the Legislative Service Bureau, under the direction of the Legislative Council, has published the book. From 1989 until 2004, Roger W. Peters served as editor. From 2005 to 2012, Christopher Carl served as editor. Beginning with the 1999-2000 edition, the *Manual* is available on-line at www.Legislature.mi.gov.

— L.E.A.

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